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March 14, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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MAR 15 2002

Technology Center 2100

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/545,564; Filed: April 7, 2000  
(a continuation-in-part of 09/260,079)  
For: **Patent-Related Tools and Methodology for  
Use in Research and Development Projects**  
Inventors: Germeraad *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1531.0310001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Forty-(40) sheets of Form PTO-1449 listing three hundred forty-seven (347) reference documents;
3. One (1) copy each of referenced documents AA1-AH1, AI1-AK1, AL1-AQ1, AA2-AH2, AI2, AL2-AQ2, AA3-AH3, AL3-AQ3, AA4-AH4, AL4, AN4-AQ4, AA5-AH5, AL5-AQ5, AA6-AH6, AL6-AQ6, AA7-AH7, AL7-AQ7, AA8-AH8, AL8-AQ8, AA9-AH9, AL9-AQ9, AA10-AH10, AL10-AQ10, AA11-AH11, AL11-AQ11, AA12-AH12, AL12-AQ12, AA13-AH13, AL13-AQ13, AL14-AQ14, AL15, AN15-AQ15, AL16-AQ16, AL17-AQ17, AL18-AQ18, AL19-AQ19, AL20-AQ20, AL21, AN21-AQ21, AL22-AQ22, AL23-AQ23, AL24-AQ24, AL25-AQ25, AL26-AQ26, AL27-AQ27, AL28-AQ28, AL29-AQ29, AL30-AQ30, AL31-AQ31, AM32-AQ32, AL33-AQ33, AL34-AQ34, AL35-AQ35, AL36-AQ36, AL37-AQ37, AL38-AQ38, AL39-AQ39, and AL40-AQ40;

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March 14, 2002  
Page 2

4. One (1) return postcard; and
5. SKGF check no. **34496** in the amount of **\$180.00** to cover the fee for filing the IDS.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Molly A. McCall  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 46,126

MAM/RDL:mlb  
Enclosures

P:\USERS\mbennett\Lucas\1531\0310001 skgf supp ids

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Germeraad *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/545,564

Filed: April 7, 2000

For: **Patent-Related Tools and Methodology  
for Use in Research and Development  
Projects**



Art Unit: 2172

Examiner: Corrielus, Jean M.

Atty. Docket: 1531.0310001

**Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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**MAR 15 2002**  
**Technology Center 2100**

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants wish to direct the Examiner's attention to documents AM4 and AM21. These textbooks were submitted in their entirety in related Application Number 08/867,392, filed June 2, 1997, now U.S. Patent Number 5,991,751, granted November 23, 1999. These textbooks are out of print and all reasonable attempts to obtain copies

have been unsuccessful. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner obtain a copy of these two references from the file-wrapper of the related application. In addition, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to document AQ39. Applicants have been unable to locate pages 6-7, 14 and 21 of this document. However, judging by that document's table of contents, Applicants have asserted that any material on the missing pages would not have any bearing on the subject matter of the present application. Finally, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to documents AQ9, AM15, AL32 and AQ36. Applicants submitted their only remaining copies of these textbooks to the Patent Office in related co-pending Application Number 09/564,828, filed May 4, 2000. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner obtain a copy of these references from the file-wrapper of the related application.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international

application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.

- ☒ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ c. Attached is our Check No. 34496 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more

than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- ☐ 4. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

- ☒ 5. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language documents appears below:

Document AM16 (Kumamoto) appears to discuss the value of information regarding industrial property rights and the advantages of using database resources for displaying patent information. An English-language abstract of document AM16 has been cited as document AN40.

Document AP25 (Otake) appears to discuss the value of patent information and its role in research & development. An English-language abstract of document AP25 has been cited as document AO40.

- ☐ 6. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Date: 3/14/02

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